it by investing it with almost dictatorial power. On July 24 it resolved:

"The nation and the revolution are in peril.

"The Provisional Government is proclaimed the Government of Salvation of the Revolution.

"It is invested with unlimited authority to restore order and discipline in the army, to struggle against counterrevolution and anarchy, and to execute measures outlined in the declaration of July 21.

"The Minister-Socialists will report to the Executive Committee on their activities at least twice a week."

The idea of this resolution came from Tseretelli; the wording was mine. The resolution was passed by 262 affirmative votes and no negative ones, with forty-seven Bolsheviks abstaining. Superficially it sounded fine. The trouble, however, was that there was no government at that time but only a group of persons representing nobody and preoccupied with the distribution of portfolios among themselves. Two days later even this shadow Cabinet disappeared from the scene. On July 26 all the ministers resigned, leaving negotiations on the formation of government to Kerensky, who in the meantime had moved his residence to the Winter Palace.

Since the non-Socialist groups refused to participate in a government dependent on the Soviets, he undertook to organize a cabinet of individuals of his own choice. After unsuccessful negotiations with the Cadets and representatives of industry and commerce, Kerensky also resigned and left the Winter Palace on August 3. A new attempt was made to form a government on the basis of an agreement between the leading parties, the Executive Committee, and the Duma Committee. After this attempt failed, the right-wing Cadets came out with an ultimatum: Kerensky must organize the new Cabinet. The Cadets made no secret of their contempt for Kerensky, yet they picked him as their man, confident that if they brought him to power he would work with them against the Executive Committee.

Facing the alternatives—a Kerensky Cabinet or no coalition—the moderate Socialists yielded. On August 4 Kerensky returned to the Winter Palace and on August 7 the new government was formed. It was a poor shadow of the first Coalition Government. It included some excellent people (Chernov for Agriculture, Peshechonov for Food Supply, Avksentiev for Interior, and Zarudny for Justice), but most of its members represented only themselves, and the new head was no replacement for Prince Lvov. From its very first day, it was doomed to fail. The Bolsheviks had avenged their defeat in July.